

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 – 10. canceled.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of encoding a watermark in a digital signal, the method comprising:

generating varying key bits; and

encoding the varying key bits in the digital signal as a watermark with reference to at least characteristics of the digital signal.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of steganographically encoding bits in a digital signal, the method comprising:

generating varying key bits; and

steganographically encoding the digital signal using the varying key bits.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of encoding a watermark in a digital signal, the method comprising:

mapping key information to effect an encode/decode map; and

encoding the watermark in the digital signal using the encode/decode map and characteristics of the digital signal.

14 – 15. canceled.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of generating a noise signal to produce watermark information, the method comprising:

generating a noise signal as a function of at least one variable which depends on key and processing state information; and

providing the generated noise signal as watermark information.

17 – 62. canceled.

63. (Currently Amended) A system for encoding a watermark in a digital signal, the system comprising:

a generator configured to generate ~~for generating~~ a pseudo-random key; and

an encoder configured to encode ~~for encoding~~ a watermark in the digital signal using: i) the pseudo-random key; and ii) characteristics of the digital signal.

64. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 63, wherein the generator is selected from a non-linear generator or a scrambling generator.

65. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 63, wherein the characteristics of the digital signal comprise mathematically defined functions of the digital signal.

66. (Currently Amended) A system for encoding a watermark in a digital signal, the system comprising:

a processor configured to: [(i) to]] map pseudo-random key and processing state information to effect an encode/decode map; and [(ii) to]] encode a watermark in [[a]] the digital signal using the encode/decode map and characteristics of the digital signal.

67. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 66, wherein the processor maps the pseudo-random key and processing state information to effect an encode/decode map using generator is selected from a non-linear generator or a scrambling generator.

68. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 66, wherein the characteristics of the digital signal comprise mathematically defined functions of the digital signal.

69 – 133. canceled.

134. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11₁ wherein the digital signal represents audio, imagery or video.

135. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12₁ wherein the digital signal represents audio, imagery or video.

136. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13₁ wherein the digital signal represents audio, imagery or video.

137. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 63₁ wherein the digital signal represents audio, imagery or video.

138. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 66₁ wherein the digital signal represents audio, imagery or video.

139.(New) A tangible computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, the instructions comprising:

instructions to generate varying key bits; and

instructions to encode the varying key bits in a digital signal as a watermark with reference to at least characteristics of the digital signal.

140. (New) A system comprising:

a generator configured to generate varying key bits; and

an encoder configured to steganographically encode a digital signal using the varying key bits.

141. (New) A tangible computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, the instructions comprising:

instructions to generate varying key bits; and

instructions to steganographically encode a digital signal using the varying key bits.

142. (New) A tangible computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, the instructions comprising:

instructions to map key information to effect an encode/decode map; and

instructions to encode a watermark in a digital signal using the encode/decode map and characteristics of the digital signal.

143. (New) A system comprising:

a generator configured to generate a noise signal as a function of at least one variable which depends on key and processing state information; and

a provider configured to provide the generated noise signal as watermark information.

144. (New) A tangible computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, the instructions comprising:

instructions to generate a noise signal as a function of at least one variable which depends on key and processing state information; and

instructions to provide the generated noise signal as watermark information.